

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921.

SUBMITTED TO:

[CWGC Canadian Agency](#)

66 Slater Street

Suite 1707

Ottawa Ontario Canada K1A 0P4

Att: [Dominique Boulais](#)

Report Date: 24 December 2015

Reason for Submission: ("X" means purpose of the report)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

Supporting Documents: (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

Casualty Identification:		Burial Information:	
Evans, Cecil Samuel	i	Tincourt New British Cemetery	link
31 st Battalion	i	Somme, France	i
Private #10112	i	Plot 6 Row J Grave 6	i
Date of Death 15/9/1916	link	Date of Burial 7/6/1924	i
Attestation Papers	link	Cemetery Schematic	link
Service Record	link	Graves Registration Report	8
Circumstance of Death	1	Concentration of Grave	9
CEF Canada Register	2	Headstone Register	
War Diary Extract(s)	3	Casualty Spreadsheet	
Area Map(s)	4	Trench Map Exhumation	
Trench Map(s)	5	Grave Stone Photograph	
Possible Candidates List	6	Grave Stone Inscription	
Excluded Candidates List	7	Memorial Inscription/Photo	
Other		Reporting and Review	10

Summary of Findings:

The "Concentration of Graves (Exhumation and Reburials) Burial Return" for Plot 6 Row J Grave 6 lists an unknown Canadian Soldier with equipment marked "Evans".

A review of the available information shows that there was only one Canadian soldier with the name "Evans" that was killed in action in that area, with no known grave, thus listed on the Vimy Memorial. That soldier was Pte. Cecil Samuel Evans #101112 of the 31st Canadian Infantry Battalion, killed near Courcelette on 15 September 1916.

Details of Findings:

The findings clearly indicate that the remains in Plot 6 Row J Grave 6 are those of Private Cecil Evans of the 31st Infantry Battalion.

The findings are based on the following:

1. The Circumstance of Death file for Private Cecil Samuel Evans reports that was killed in action on the 15th of September 1916 at a point south of Courcelette, east of Thiepval and that his grave was registered (Attachment #1).
2. The War Graves Register reports that the remains of Private Cecil Evans were not knowingly recovered and identified and thus his name was inscribed on the Vimy Memorial, as a soldier with no known grave (Attachment #2).
3. Private Evans was serving with the 31st Canadian Infantry Battalion at the time of his death. The war diary of the 31st Battalion for September 14th and 15th clearly states that the unit was at Pozieres, France. More specifically, the Battalion Headquarters were located at 57d.R34.d.3.5, less than 700 yards away from where the remains were recovered (Attachment #3).
4. The 31st Battalion of the 6th Infantry Brigade was part of a large Canadian force participating in the attack on Courcelette in the area south of the village, just northeast of Pozieres and west of Martinpuich (Attachment #4). This is as previously described as the area where Private Evans was killed east of Thiepval and south of Courcelette.
5. A period trench map of the area where the remains were found provides further evidence of the strong presence of the 31st Battalion in this area (Attachment #5). The trench map depicts the other recorded locations of remains for Private Ashton (57d.R35.b.2.4); Private Alcock (dressing station at 57d.R35.55.0); and Lt. McPherson, whose remains were recovered only 160 yards away (57d.X5.a.1.3). All of these men served with the 31st Infantry Battalion and were killed in action at that time and place.
6. The records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) shows that there were fourteen (14) soldiers with the last name Evans who are recorded on the Vimy Memorial as having no known grave (Attachment #6). The records of each of those soldiers had to be checked to determine if it would have been possible for their remains to have been found at 57d.X5.a.5.7.
7. Of the fourteen (14) candidates for inclusion, one (1) was excluded for 1915 as he was killed near Festubert, France (north of Arras). Six (6) of those named on the Vimy Memorial were killed in 1917 and well out of the area of Courcelette, leaving seven (7) soldiers in the final analysis (Attachment #7). Six (6) of those candidates were killed north of Courcelette, leaving Private Cecil Evans #101112 as the only possibility.

8. If a researcher was to examine only the “Graves Registration Report Form” (GRRF) there would be no indication that the remains in Plot 6 Grave J Row 6 might be those of Private Evans, as the document reports only “Unknown Canadian Soldier” (Attachment #8).
9. Examination of the “Concentration of Graves (Exhumation and Reburials) Burial Return” (COG-BR) for the Tincourt New British Cemetery provides additional information on the remains exhumed and reburied in the grave. The additional information is that the remains were with a piece of equipment marked to “Evans” (Attachment #9). Our analysis of this record, in conjunction with all the additional information presented, makes it clear that these were the remains of Private Cecil Samuel Evans #101112 who was killed at that location when the rest of the 31st Battalion was in action at the time of his death.

Note that in the final two records referenced above (GRRF and COG-BR) that the grave reference was changed from Row “I” to row “J”. The reference to “Pettit #555545” in Grave 5 of the same lot and row provides confirmation that this was a record change only.

Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #10).

The results of the investigation are clear that there are no other candidates having the name “Evans” that were in the area south of Courcellette and east of Thiepval whose remains could be located at 57d.X5.a.5.7. We would therefore suggest that the CWGC records be amended to report that Plot 6 Row J Grave 6 of the Tincourt New British Cemetery contains the remains of Private Cecil Samuel Evans, a Private with the 31st Canadian Infantry Battalion, killed in action on 15 September 1916.

ATTACHMENT #1

1. NO.		2. RANK OR RATING		3. SURNAME		4. CHRISTIAN NAME	
101112		Private		EVANS		Cecil Samuel	
5. UNIT OR SHIP			6. DATE OF CASUALTY		7. H.Q. FILE NO.		8. RELIGION
31st Battalion			15-9-16		649-E-1252		Presbyterian
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY				10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN			
"Previously for official purposes presumed to have died, now Killed in Action"							
11. LOCATION OF UNIT AT TIME OF CASUALTY							
ATTACK NEAR COURCELETTE.							
NOTE:—Items 12, 13 and 14 are not to be completed until grave is permanently located.							
12. CEMETERY		13. LOCATION OF CEMETERY		14. GRAVE LOCATOR		15. REGISTERED NO. OF GRAVE	
				Grave..... Row.....			
16. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TAKEN		17. EXPOSURE NO.		18. PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE AND CEMETERY SUPPLIED TO			
19. REMARKS							
20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE							
At a point South of Courcellette, East of Thiepval, France. (Grave Registered)							

20. REPORTED LOCATIONS OF GRAVE

At a point South of Courcellette, East of Thiepval, France. (Grave Registered)

19. REMARKS

ATTACHMENT #2

14512

NUMBER 101118 RANK Pte NAME EVANS C.S. 649-E-1252.

UNIT 21st Bn 1st Regt 126 18th Belmont Ave. Ottawa

FILE NO. R.L. 649 E 1252

DATE OF DEATH on or since	CAUSE AND PLACE OF DEATH	CAS. SHEET NO.
15-9-16	Previously reported Missing now for Official purposes presumed to have Died. <i>Now Killed in Action 15-9-16.</i>	A 553 <i>List No 558.</i> <i>12-3-20</i>
DATE OF BURIAL	PLACE OF BURIAL	DESCRIPTION OF GRAVE
	Burial Rpt by G.R.B. at a point south of Gourcelette East of Thiepval.	649-E-1252.
<p>The above area has been searched and all isolated graves removed to nearby cemeteries but no trace can be found of grave as at 2.5.24. 649-E-1252.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">† VIMY † MEMORIAL</p>		

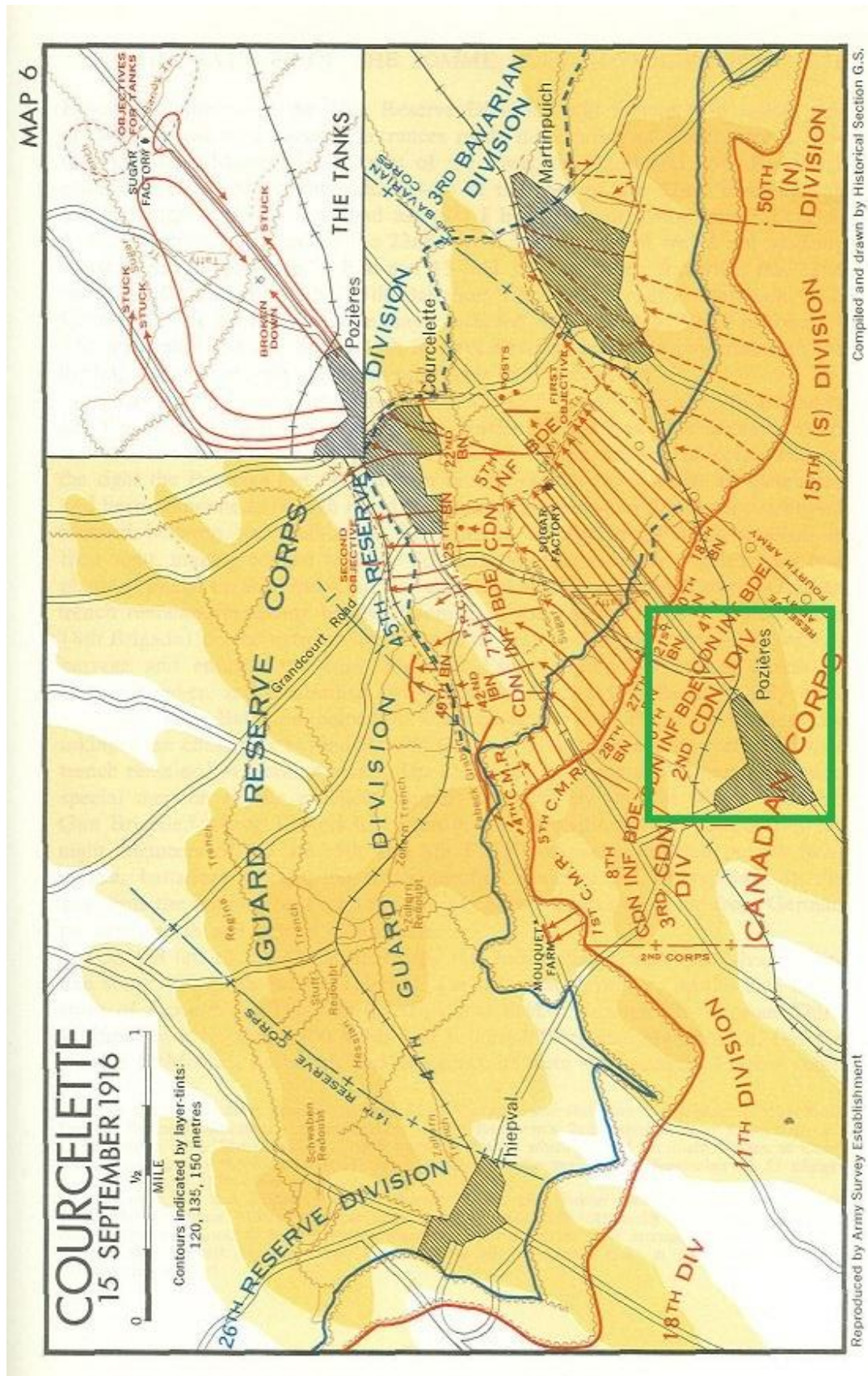
ATTACHMENT #3

WAR DIARY			Army Form C. 2118
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			
Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendix
Place	Date	Hour	
POZIERES.	Sept. 1916.	12th 9.30k	Bright clear morning. Enemy aeroplane shot down and burned behind our lines.
		10.00k	Visited R.A.P. 29th. Battalion, near POZIERES, BAPAUME ROAD.
		16.00k	Heavy Artillery fire. 2 men wounded during night. Drizzling rain.
POZIERES.	13th.	9.00k	Rainy morning. N.W. wind. 2 killed and 16 wounded on night work party. 1 N.C.O. wounded at dug-out. 1 sick sent to No. 4 Field Ambulance.
POZIERES.	14th.	9.00k	Fine clear morning. Cool. 2 sick sent to No. 4 Field Ambulance. Men are in good spirits and ready for attack to-morrow morning.
		10.00k	Visited CENTRE WAY communication trench and examined dug-outs at R. 34.1.3.5. One will be used as Battalion Headquarters and another is suitable for R.A.P. No dug-out that will admit a stretcher is available.
		16.00k	Battalion standing to, ready to go to assembly trenches, after evening bombardment, between 19.00k and 19.50k. I see stretcher bearers and give them final instructions, location of R.A.P. etc.
		18.00k	6th. Canadian Infantry Brigade is making an attack on enemy at 6.20k. Sept. 15th. 31st. Battalion will support 27th. Battalion and 28th. Battalion and will in consequence be somewhat scattered.
		18.30k	I send Lt. Col. Bright ahead to Battalion Headquarters, to await my arrival.
		19.00k	Leave for R.A.P. Artillery very active on left. Enemy replying vigorously all along our line. Our intense bombardment begins. I am in COMBES ALLEY with orderly, Willis and my batman.
		20.00k	Enemy's counter barrage looks too thick to face at present, and we wait in 27th. Battalion R.A.P. until Artillery fire subsides.
		21.00k	Leave, in company of M.O. 28th. Battalion and orderlies for R.A.P. on CENTRE WAY. Enemy shelling very heavy.
			We arrive at R.A.P. dug-out and find it occupied by a platoon of 5th. C.M.R. Battalion. They are to go out at 23.30k. Visit Battalion Headquarters, 50 yards up trench. 28th. and 31st. Battalions have Headquarters together. We shall also use same R.A.P. dug-out. Heavy shelling.

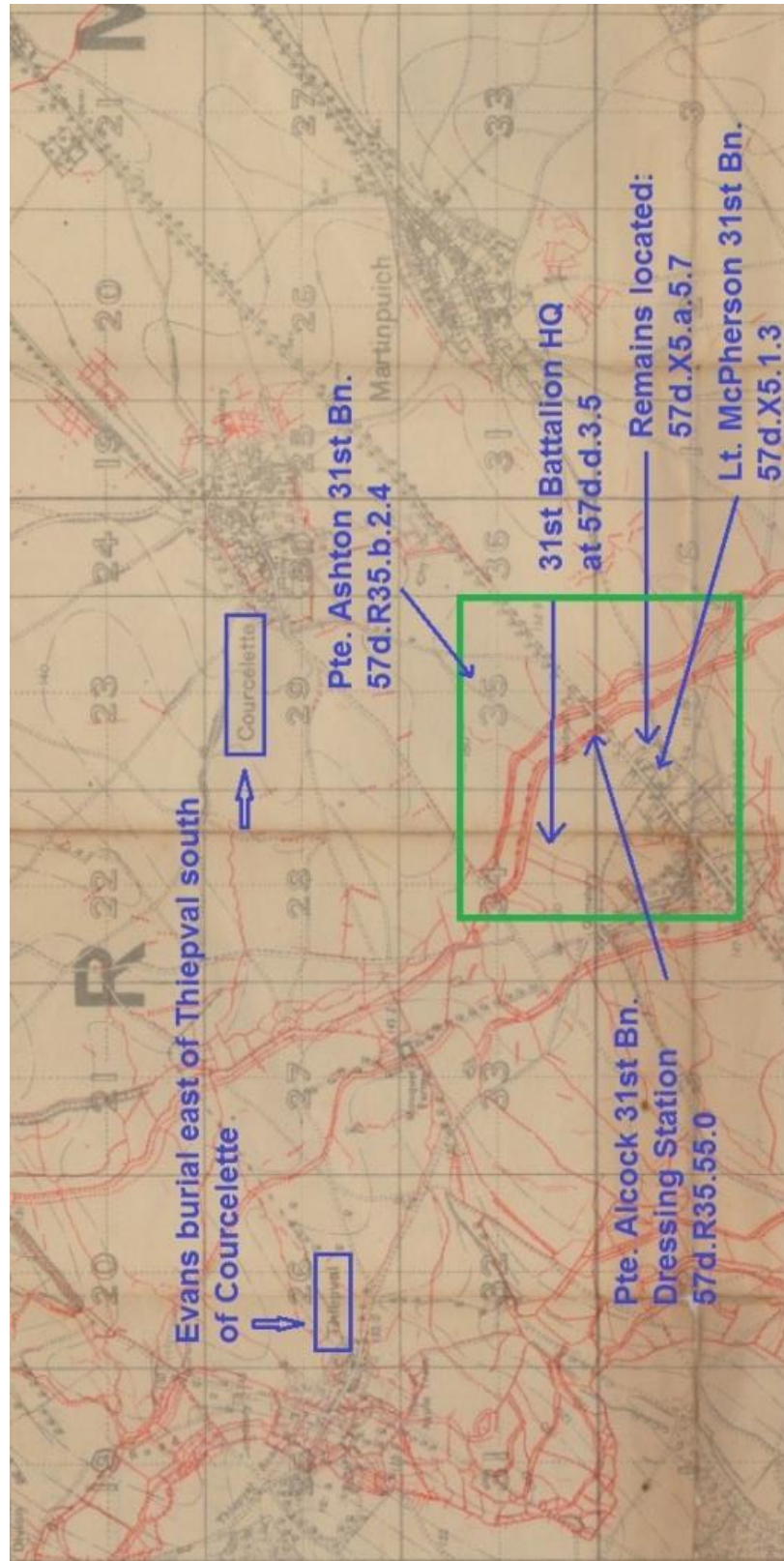
2353 Wt. W. 5514/1454 700/000 5/15 D.D.&L. AD.SS./Form C. 2118

WAR DIARY			Army Form C. 2118
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY			
Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendix
Place	Date	Hour	
POZIERES.	Sept. 1916.	15th. 1.00k	Clear moonlight night. Artillery fire lying down. C.M.R. platoon moves out. Sgt. Turner C. Coy. goes out with severe abdominal wound.
		3.00k	Visit Battalion Headquarters.
		6.20k	Zero hour. Attack begins. Terrific Artillery bombardment. German guns reply in a few minutes.
		7.00k	Wounded beginning to come in, chiefly walking cases. We cannot get stretchers into dug-out and press lying cases in trench and in the open.
		7.30k	We attend to a batch of 20 wounded German prisoners, including 1 Officer.
		8.00k	My batman is killed by a piece of shell.
		12.00k	R.A.P. and adjoining trench filled with severely wounded men. I send messages to Field Ambulance and Brigade Headquarters for carrying parties.
		14.00k	Carrying party from 29th. Battalion has cleared our wounded. More continue to arrive.
		18.00k	Capt. Ross, No. 6th. Field Ambulance, arrives with stretcher squad. Several severe stretcher cases are on hand. 6th. Field Ambulance squad takes two.
		20.00k	Very intense hostile shelling. Canadian Corps has reached all first objectives. 5th. and 7th. Brigades are pushing attack into COURCELETTE and on left towards MOUQUET FARM. Trench entrance to R.A.P. dug-out blown in by shell.
		18.00k	Constant stream of wounded, chiefly from 42nd. Battalion, 7th. Brigade.
		20.00k	Stretcher squads have not returned. Have sent message to this effect.
			We dig out and clean entrance to dug-out.
POZIERES.	16th.	1.00k	Stretcher bearer squad of 5th. Field Ambulance arrives. They had been lost on way up, hence delay.
		8.00k	Wounded all cleared.
		9.00k	Have heard that 28th. and 31st. Battalions have been relieved.
		10.00k	Turn R.A.P. over to M.O. R.C.Rs. and go out overland to 6th. Brigade Headquarters, with Capt. COLLINS, M.O. 28th. Battalion. Enemy still shelling but not nearly so hard as yesterday. Attack has been great success all along the line. 5th. Brigade took COURCELETTE last evening.
			31st. Battalion has collected at CASUALTY CORNER near CONTALMAISON. I report to O.C. Battalion. Casualties estimated at 350. 7 Officers including 3 Company Commanders are reported killed 5 wounded and 1 missing.

2353 Wt. W. 5514/1454 700/000 5/15 D.D.&L. AD.SS./Form C. 2118



ATTACHMENT #5



ATTACHMENT #6

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment / Service	Service Country	Grave / Memorial Reference	Cemetery / Memorial Name	Docs.
EVANS, ALFRED	Private	124467	17/08/1917	40	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, AMBROSE MARSHALL	Private	2863	25/05/1915	31	Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, AMOS MORRILL	Corporal	177274	09/04/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, CECIL SAMUEL	Private	101112	15/09/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, CHARLES EDWARD	Lance Corporal	A/26227	28/04/1917		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, CHARLES JOHN	Sapper	267805	30/11/1917		Canadian Railway Troops	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, ERNEST EDWARD	Private	141419	08/10/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, FREDERICK GEORGE	Private	435162	19/11/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, GEORGE ALLAN	Private	911814	06/05/1917	19	Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, JOHN	Private	434765	18/11/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, JOHN	Lance Corporal	448088	28/04/1917		Canadian Machine Gun Corps	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, ROBERT	Private	A/24132	26/09/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, WILFRED JOHN	Private	A/11101	15/09/1916	22	Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment)	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	
EVANS, WILLIAM S	Private	460716	18/11/1916		Canadian Infantry	Canadian		VIMY MEMORIAL	

ATTACHMENT #7

To be a candidate for consideration of an Unknown Canadian Soldier in this case the following conditions applied:

1. The soldier saw action in the Battle of the Somme, France between July 1st and November 30, 1916 in the area northeast of Albert.
2. The remains were not previously identified and thus the name of the soldier is listed on the Vimy Memorial.
3. Provided the above two conditions were met, the circumstance of death, war diaries and maps were used to determine if the remains could have been in the area south of Courcelette between Pozieres and Martinpuich (as shown in the exhumation report as 57d.X5.a.5.7).

Vimy Memorial "Evans"	Reason for Exclusion
Evans, Alfred #124467	August 1917 at Lens (Hill 70)
Evans, Ambrose #2863	May 1915 at Festubert
Evans, Amos #177274	April 1917 Vimy Ridge, Arras
Evans, Charles, #A/26227	April 1917 Arras
Evans, Charles #267805	November 1917 Gouzeaucourt Station at 57c.Q24.b
Evans, Ernest #141419	October 1916 at Le Sars, northeast of Courcelette
Evans, Frederick #435162	November 1916 at Le Sars, northeast of Courcelette
Evans, George #911814	May 1917 in the trenches at Lens
Evans, John #434765	November 1916 at Pys 57c.M13.b.5.5
Evans, John #448088	April 1917 at Arleux-en-Gohelle
Evans, Robert #A/24132	September 1916 at Regina Trench north of Courcelette
Evans, Wilfred #A/11101	September 1916 trenches northwest of Courcelette
Evans, William #460716	November 1916, Desire Trench north of Courcelette

ATTACHMENT #8

No. 5 Area, I.W.G.C.
Serial No. 90.
20/1/25.

Army Form W. 3372.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

137c

REPORT No. 4. SCHEDULE No. 1186.

COMMUNE:- TINCOURT BOUCLY.

PLACE OF BURIAL TINCOURT NEW BRITISH CEMETERY.

Map Reference 62c. J.23. b.4.7.

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd	Plot, Row and Grave No.
R.D.Fus.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	1. ✓
R.D.Fus.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	2. ✓
Canadians.	401122	P.P. LIZMOR	E. Pte. P.R.	1-10-16	EF/X/15907	3. ✓
K.O.Y.L.I.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	4. ✓
19/Canadians.	55545	PETTIT	G. Sgt.	13-9-16	EF/X/15909	5. ✓
		UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.		-	RU/43153 EF/X/15914	6. ✓
10/R. Dublin Fus.	14646	FINDLATER	4/Sgt. C.A.	13-11-16	E. EF/X/15905	7. ✓
Gordon A. HRS		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	8. ✓
Gordon A. HRS		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	9. ✓
R.D.Fus.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	10. ✓
4/C.M.R.	111525	WILSON	S.	1-10-16	EF/X/15911	11. ✓
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.		-	E.	12. ✓
15/R.Scots.	330871	STEAD	Pte. G.	11/9/17.	E.	13. ✓
15/R.Scots.	2710	LOCKHART	R.S.M. R.	4/9/17.	E.	14. ✓
Fort Garry Horse, C.E.F.	551914	GORDON	Cpl. N.D.	8/7/17.	E.	15. ✓
2/5 S. Staffs. REGT	200943	WESWOOD	Sgt. T.	22/4/17.	E.	16. ✓
2/5 S. Staffs. REGT	202773	YATES	Pte. H.	22/4/17.	E.	17. ✓

50311 W3423/4914 10m(2) 2/22 J.P. 301 Gp. 121 Forms/W3372/4

Re Carassmore 21/2/26

ENTERED
26.2.25
1928-225

PRINTED IN BRITAIN BY JAMES PRINTER AND ESTIMATED BY THE

TINCOURT *6/25/05*

No 5 Area, I.W.G.C. CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

BURIAL RETURN.

Serial No TI/22.

7-8-24.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial **TINCOURT N.B.C. 620, J.23, b.4.7.**

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
6	I	1	57d. Q.11. a.2.4. ✓	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER R.D.FUS.	Khaki. Boots. Cap Badge.	No
6	I	2	57d. Q.11. a.25.45. ✓	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER R.D.FUS.	Khaki. Titles.	No
6	I	3	57d. R.22. b.6.9. ✓	No	40111-P.R. LIZM- 4 R.E CANADIANS <i>W.C.4.E. 17/11-18-16</i>	Khaki. Disco.	Disco <i>6/25/05</i>
6	I	4	57d. X.27. a.4.6. ✓	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER K.O.Y.I.I.	Khaki. Cap Badge. Piece Water Proof sheet. 6895.	Cap Badge. Piece of Water Proof sheet 6895. <i>6/25/05</i>
6	I	5	57d. X.5. a.5.7. ✓	No	55545 G.PETTIT 19/ CANADIANS.	Khaki. Disco.	Disco. <i>6/25/05</i>
6	I	6	57d. X.5. a.5.7. ✓	No	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER	Titles. Pocket-Book. Piece of Equipment. EVANS.	Pocket Book. Piece of Equipment. EVANS. <i>6/25/05</i>
6	I	7	57d. Q.11. c.3.2. ✓	No	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER <i>19/25/16</i>	Khaki. Piece of boot. 10/D.F. 14846.	Piece of boot. 10/D.F. 14846. <i>6/25/05</i>

Certified crosses erected and map references correct, *13/11/16*

WILLIAM J. MAYNARD
Assistant Registration Officer,
for Area Superintendent, No 5 Area, I.W.G.C.

THIS FORM TO BE MADE OUT IN TRIPPLICATE, TWO COPIES BEING HANDLED TO THE D. A. D. (C. of G.) AND THE OTHER RETAINED BY THE BURIAL OFFICER.

ATTACHMENT #10

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

Procedure:	Guideline Criteria for Submission:
All new identification cases need to be assessed in the first instance by the Canadian Agency (CA) and submissions should go to their office directly. After an initial assessment, if the Agency feels that the case is compelling, they will then pass all the documentation to the Commemorations Team at the Commission's Head Office. Head Office will then review the case and inform the CA of their findings. The Canadian authorities will then decide whether or not any changes to the arrangements for commemoration are required and inform the Commission accordingly.	Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

Name	Affiliation	E-mail	Contribution
Richard Laughton	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	rlaughton@laughton.ca	Report Author